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As to the questions you asked in your letter of March 17: For a while Timothy McVeigh, Ramzi Yousef, and I shared exercise time fairly regularly. As you probably know, McVeigh has now been moved to

Terre Haute, Indiana. I have not recently shared exercise time with Ramzi Yousef, but I do frequently take rec with a couple of other well-known inmates. I won't mention their names without their permission. (I had Ramzi's and McVeigh's permission to talk about our shared rec time.) Both Ramzi and McVeigh are very intelligent, and they are friendly and considerate of others. I know very little of what the media have said about Ramzi, but I can say that McVeigh has been misrepresented by the media.

None of the foregoing remarks are to be construed as an endorsement of actions of which Ramzi and McVeigh have been accused.

In answer to your letter of June 2: I appreciate your kindly concern. I'm doing alright. Judge Burrell's denial of my motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 was expected, since he was the judge who tried me in the first place. I've now applied to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for permission to appeal to that court, and that's where I just might have a chance, if only a very slim one.

Best regards,
Ted Kaczynski

situps, etc.

You asked me to invite Timothy McVeigh to "go suck a coprolite." I'm not sure if I remember what the word "coprolite" means — it's not in my dictionary — but I think it means a fossilized dinosaur turd or something along those lines. Am I right? Anyway, I'm not going to invite McVeigh to go suck one. I don't know whether he did what they say he did, or what his motives were if he did do it, but on a personal level he is a very decent fellow, friendly and considerate of others. My impression is that he and Ramzi Yousef are both very bright. Actually, the people I'm acquainted with in this range of cells (known as "celebrity row") are nicer than the majority of people I've known on the outside. I should add that a lot of what the media have printed about McVeigh is crap. He is not a "neonazi racist" — far from it — and he doesn't believe that satellites control people or that he has a

computer chip implanted in his chest.

You'll recall that problem about polynomials — if $f(x)$ is a polynomial with real coefficients and if $f(x)^n$, for some positive integer n , has rational coefficients, then $f(x)$ has rational coefficients. I don't know whether you still want me to take you through the proof of that. If you do, let me know, and I'll give you the next instalment of the proof.

Hoping that you do well on your final exams —

Ted Kaczynski

P.S. You added a postscript to your note of 5/18/97: "Like the Frogs?" I am perplexed. What frogs are you referring to?

— TK

TED KACZYNSKI
to

016100

May 21, 1999

CLASS J

Dear Mr. :

I've just received the book that you kindly sent me for my birthday, and I would like to express my appreciation of your thoughtfulness. My experience of young males (age 13-25), and of having been one myself, is that they generally tend to be rather hardnosed and callous, so, for your age and sex, I would say that you are remarkably considerate of other people.

While we are on the subject of birthdays — I trust that you received the birthday greeting that I sent you; and you may be interested to know that your birthday, April 27, is the same as that of Ramzi Yousef, the alleged "mastermind" of the World Trade Center Bombing. I mentioned this to Ramzi, and he wants me to tell you that, since your birthday is the same as his, you and he must have similar personalities. I'm not sure how serious he is. He may have some degree of belief in astrology.

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Understanding of Science.

You asked me to cite any clear similarities or differences between your personality and that of Ramzi Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the World Trade Center bombing. I honestly can't think of any clear similarities or differences between you two. I only have a vague sense that you are in some ways similar and in some ways different. I put your question to Ramzi, and he suggested that you should look at the July issue of Penthouse magazine, which contains an article about him and McVeigh. I hesitate to mention Penthouse to you, since I certainly don't want to encourage you to read any publications of that ilk (I can tell you in all seriousness that I wouldn't have a copy of Penthouse in my cell); but then, you probably read it anyway, so what the heck.

TED KACZYNSKI
to

November 1, 2001

U.K.

Dear Professor

Thanks for your letter (even though it bears the inauspicious date of October 3 — my brother's birthday). I don't object to word-processed letters.

I'm not sure what you're looking for from me, since you don't ask any specific questions or raise any specific points that you want me to address. But since you're an expert in Islamic studies, I do have some fairly specific points that I'd like you to address.

Like a lot of people, I've been wondering (and not only since Sept. 11) about the significance of militant Islam, and in particular about the motivations of the militants. Some of the motivating factors involved are obvious: resistance to modernization, religious fanaticism, the leaders' drive for power, and "nationalism." * But the relative importance of the various factors, and their exact nature, has been very unclear to me.

The first thing I read that seemed to throw

* I use the word "nationalism", in quotes, because the phenomenon is similar to nationalism, but differs from it in that it involves identification not with a nation but with a religion.

any real light on the subject was an article in Time Magazine, October 15, 2001, pages 70-71, titled "Osama's Endgame." This article seems to show that Osama Bin Laden's motives (whatever he may tell himself about them) are not primarily religious piety, or resistance to modernity, but rather "nationalism and the drive for power. If the article can be believed, Bin Laden wants nuclear weapons and economic strength for the Islamic world so that it can become a "great power." In other words Bin Laden, behind a veneer of piety, just wants to play the same power-game that states have played almost since the beginning of civilization. It's a game that threatens to become unprecedentedly disastrous, in several respects, because states now have at their disposal the increasingly horrible tools of modern technology.

But I don't know how seriously to take the Time article, because I've learned through my own experience that the news media are sloppy in their research and do not hesitate to distort the truth.

So my first question is: Do you think the article is roughly accurate in its portrayal of Bin Laden's motives?

Assuming that the article is more-or-less accurate as to Bin Laden personally, to what extent can he be taken as representative of militant Islam as a whole? I don't doubt that there are a great many militant Muslims for whom

religious belief is more important than "nationalism" and the drive for worldly power, but I strongly suspect that those for whom worldly power is most important will tend to dominate the movement. Do you agree, or not?

I also wonder about the strength and nature of the resistance to modernity. Assuming that the article mentioned above is correct, it seems clear that Bin Laden and his associates do not reject modern technology and industrialization — since the Islamic world could hardly become a great power without them. Bin Laden et al resist only the social changes that have accompanied modernization, e.g., collapse of traditional values, irreligion, and unbridled hedonism. I think there is significant resistance to modern technology in the Islamic world,^{*} but my guess is that the forces of what I've called "nationalism" will easily prevail over any resistance to modern technology.

Do you agree with the foregoing paragraph, or not?

^{*} It is interesting that I've received a couple of postcards, unsigned but apparently from the same person, bearing postage stamps of the United Arab Emirates and the words, "From Dubai." No other message; but I assume the sender of the cards knew what I stand for and meant to express his support.

Assuming I am right in thinking that the dominant goal of militant Islam (or at least of its most important leaders) is to create an Islamic "great power," and one that is free of the social changes that have accompanied modernization elsewhere ~~then~~ it seems to me that its project is doomed to fail. Creation of a great power would require industrialization; and it would appear that successful, efficient industrialization is incompatible with the existing culture of the Middle East. An attempt to industrialize that region either will fail or will lead to the same kinds of social changes that have accompanied industrialization elsewhere.

Would you comment on the foregoing paragraph?

I would also guess that, even if the leaders were to drop all resistance to modernizing social changes, creation of a fully-developed and efficient industrial economy in the Middle East ^{still} would be exceedingly slow and difficult, because the culture isn't amenable to it and won't change easily. In particular, there is not enough social discipline there — or not enough social discipline of the right kind. Do you agree or disagree?

Even though a fully-developed industrial economy in the Middle East seems unlikely for the foreseeable future, I can well imagine a Middle-Eastern state that as a whole is inefficient and backward, but in which a relatively small, elite

minority creates (on a modest scale) an advanced industrial and technological structure within the more backward whole. Maybe some of the Middle Eastern ~~the~~ states already are approaching this condition? What do you think about this?

The possible creation of advanced industrial and technological structures in the Middle East worries me exceedingly. I think that what the West is doing with modern technology is criminally reckless. But I also think that the West shows more self-restraint in the use of its (technological and other) power than most other cultures do. In other words, I think most other cultures that to some degree have access to modern technology use it even more recklessly than the West does. (Did you ever ask yourself what some of these Third-World countries are doing with their nuclear waste?) And it seems to me that there is more recklessness in the Middle East than elsewhere. The danger lies not only in the reckless use of intentionally destructive technologies such as that of nuclear weapons, but also in supposedly benign applications of technologies (e.g., genetic engineering) that may have unanticipated, disastrous consequences. What do you think? Am I right in believing that there is a certain kind of recklessness in Middle-Eastern cultures?

Twenty-odd years ago I worked in a small factory with a man from Pakistan. He was very

intelligent, an excellent worker, and I liked him very well. But by way of a joke he used to point a knife at me — a box-cutter knife, as it happened — and say, "I weel keel you!" He apparently did not realize that that kind of humor was ~~no~~ not acceptable in the West.

This is only an anecdote, but it illustrates what I think other evidence seems to support — that in Middle Eastern cultures there is far less inhibition about violence, killing, and destructiveness generally than there is in the West. Am I right about this?

* * *

Now let me return to your letter. Your fourth paragraph is obscure to me. Do you mean that you formerly opposed loss of human life but are now more ready to accept it? Or vice versa? You indicate that the deaths at the World Trade Center have affected you more deeply than violent deaths elsewhere in the world. Is this because you see the W.T.C. people as more like yourself, so that you can identify more closely with them? You ask whether that makes you a racist. Whether you call yourself a racist is up to you, but personally I think the leftists' use of the word racist is absurd. If the term is to be applied as broadly as the leftists apply it, then probably 99.9% of people throughout the world's history have been racists.

Also, I'm highly skeptical of the claim that "deaths of innocents occur every day in hundreds of thousand [sic] through the depredations of imperialism." Where I've had opportunity to compare information from leftists with information from sources that I have good reason to believe are reliable, I've found the leftists' information to be shamelessly slanted. (Same true of information from the right.) And, assuming that that statistic ("hundreds of thousands of deaths") were correct, how would your leftist friends balance those deaths against the lives saved by Western medicines and medical technology, Western agricultural technology, etc.? (Not that I think that's good. If I could, I would eliminate all advanced technology everywhere, including medical and agricultural technology.)

And why would you run a support group for I.R.A. prisoners? I certainly can't claim to be well-informed about Northern Ireland, but from the little I know it seems to me that what is going on there is essentially just a blood-feud between the Catholics and the Protestants, and I see no reason why any outsider should think that one side was better than the other.

Sincerely yours,

Ted Kaczynski

TED KACZYNSKI
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December 8, 2001

Dear

Thanks for your letter postmarked November 30. I very much appreciate the trouble you've gone through in trying to find books for me. However, if the books I mentioned are not readily available, don't worry about it. I could use some books in Spanish so that I can keep in practice with that language, but if there are any good secondhand-book stores in your area you might be able to get some Spanish-language books cheap. I actually prefer old, beat-up books of the kind that you could get at a minimal price. Most any books of history or biography would interest me.

I finished my petition for writ of certiorari and sent it to the Supreme Court on October 30. There is only a slim chance that the Supreme Court will agree to review my case, but if they did agree to review it I might have a good chance of winning.

Here at the prison only one thing has changed as a result of the war-and-terrorism situation. A new system for delivering legal mail to inmates has been set up, and I think it has something to do with the anthrax scare. Mail from lawyers is no longer delivered to our cells. Instead, we are escorted to the mailroom to pick up our legal mail there.

You invited me to comment on recent events. I don't know enough about the Middle East to be able to comment in detail, but provisionally I would say that what is going on now is just the latest phase of the brutal struggle for power between rival states and rival cultures that has been going on almost since the beginning of civilization. The difference is that, today, modern technology makes the struggle far more destructive and dangerous than it ever was before.

As always, politicians and propagandists on both sides use the existence of an external enemy to distract attention from problems at home. When people are frightened by a threat coming from outside their own country, they tend to rally behind their leaders and forget their grievances, and the politicians and propagandists exploit this phenomenon. In our country, the terrorist threat is being used as an excuse to develop and apply surveillance and security technologies that hasten the erosion of our privacy.

Osama Bin Laden has been portrayed as an opponent of modernity. If he were simply that, I might be inclined to support him, but my guess is that his motive is less an opposition to modernity than a desire to create

an Islamic "great power" that would be able to compete on equal terms with the other great powers of the world. If that is true, then he is just another ruthless and power-hungry politician, and I have no use for him.

Now, would you like to tell me a little bit about yourself? Did you write to me because you were concerned about the technology problem? Or for some other reason?

Best regards,

Ted Kaczynski

P.S. I am enclosing a holiday card for you. — TJK

TED KACZYNSKI
to

December 18, 2002

Dear

Thanks for your letter and Christmas card. Thank you very much also for ordering the book for me. I appreciate it.

Yes, Colorado can get cold. But compared to Montana, where I used to live, it seems fairly mild.

To answer your questions, I don't know what the U.S. should do about Osama Bin Laden. To tell the truth, I don't read too much in the newspapers and news magazines, so I don't know very much about that situation. But as far as I can make out, nobody knows what to do about Bin Laden.

As for Saddam Hussein, yes, I would guess that President Bush is serious about making war on him. I would guess that it probably is warranted. I don't think all these petty little dictators around the world should be allowed to develop nuclear weapons.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Ted Kaczynski

Let me go back to your letter of 3/25/03 and mention something there that I disagree with. On page 3 you wrote, "I usually hang my head in shame when saying I'm a citizen of this country." You wrote this in connection with your comments about the war in Iraq. I'll say first that if it's true that Saddam Hussein was developing nuclear or biological weapons, then one could make a good argument for invading Iraq to disarm him. Of course, the U.S. still hasn't been able (as far as I know) to turn up any solid evidence that Saddam actually was making nuclear or biological weapons, and I feel reasonably sure that (whatever they may tell themselves or the public) the politicians' motives for invading Iraq had more to do with their own egos and their own drive for power than with any unselfish desire to prevent the harm that Saddam might do with his weapons programs.

But how many countries are better than the U.S.? The U.S., as it happens, is top dog in the

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world today. If Russia, or China, or some other country were top dog, would they behave any better than the U.S.? Not likely! Given the present technological and economic situation of the world, a ruthless struggle for power among nations is probably inevitable. If you single out the U.S. for blame simply because it is, for the time being, the most successful contestant in the international power struggle, you only distract attention from the real root of the problem, which is the set of technological and economic conditions that make the power-struggle inevitable. I've argued this point with you, too, by the way.

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affairs in your letter postmarked August 11, if President Bush is a good man, then he must also be a dumb one, since he let his advisors snooker him (and the general public, too) into believing that Saddam Hussein was making nuclear weapons. Even if the U.S. eventually finds proof of some efforts at making chemical or biological weapons in Iraq, there couldn't have been much of that kind of thing going on there, otherwise plenty of evidence of it would already have been found.

Also, the idea of setting up a democracy in Iraq is stupid. History shows that you can't just go into a country and set up a democracy and expect it to work. It rarely does work—until, after many decades of social changes that make democracy possible. Look at all the countries in which there have been attempts to establish democracy during the last 50 years. Most of those attempts have been complete failures. Democracy did work in Japan, for example, but the Japanese are an unusually docile and orderly people. The Arab peoples, in contrast, are traditionally turbulent and unruly. In that kind of culture democracy ~~has~~ has very little chance of success.

You ask whether the people making trouble in Iraq are "just terrorists," or what. I don't know. I'll only point out that someone has said, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom-fighter." So it depends on your point of view.

Should the U.S. intervene in Liberia? Well, I don't know. Again, it's a problem of a country with a turbulent and unruly culture. Any good that the U.S. could do there now most likely would be temporary.

Again, thank you very much for the book. I hope that everything is going well for you & your family.

Best regards,

Ted Kravitz

About Obama... it's interesting that you worked on his campaign. I at first favored Hillary Clinton for president, but after she was out of the picture I favored Obama. I mean, I don't think any of our politicians are worth a damn, so when I say I "favor" a politician for an office, I just mean that I think he or she is the least of the available evils. I favored Clinton and later Obama mainly because I figured a Democratic president would be much more likely than a Republican to appoint judges and Supreme Court Justices who have some respect for constitutional rights. (From my own experiences with the judicial system I know how important that is!) But now I'm afraid Obama is going to be a big disappointment in that respect. The people he has appointed as Attorney

TJK to LYDIA ECCLES 4/16/09

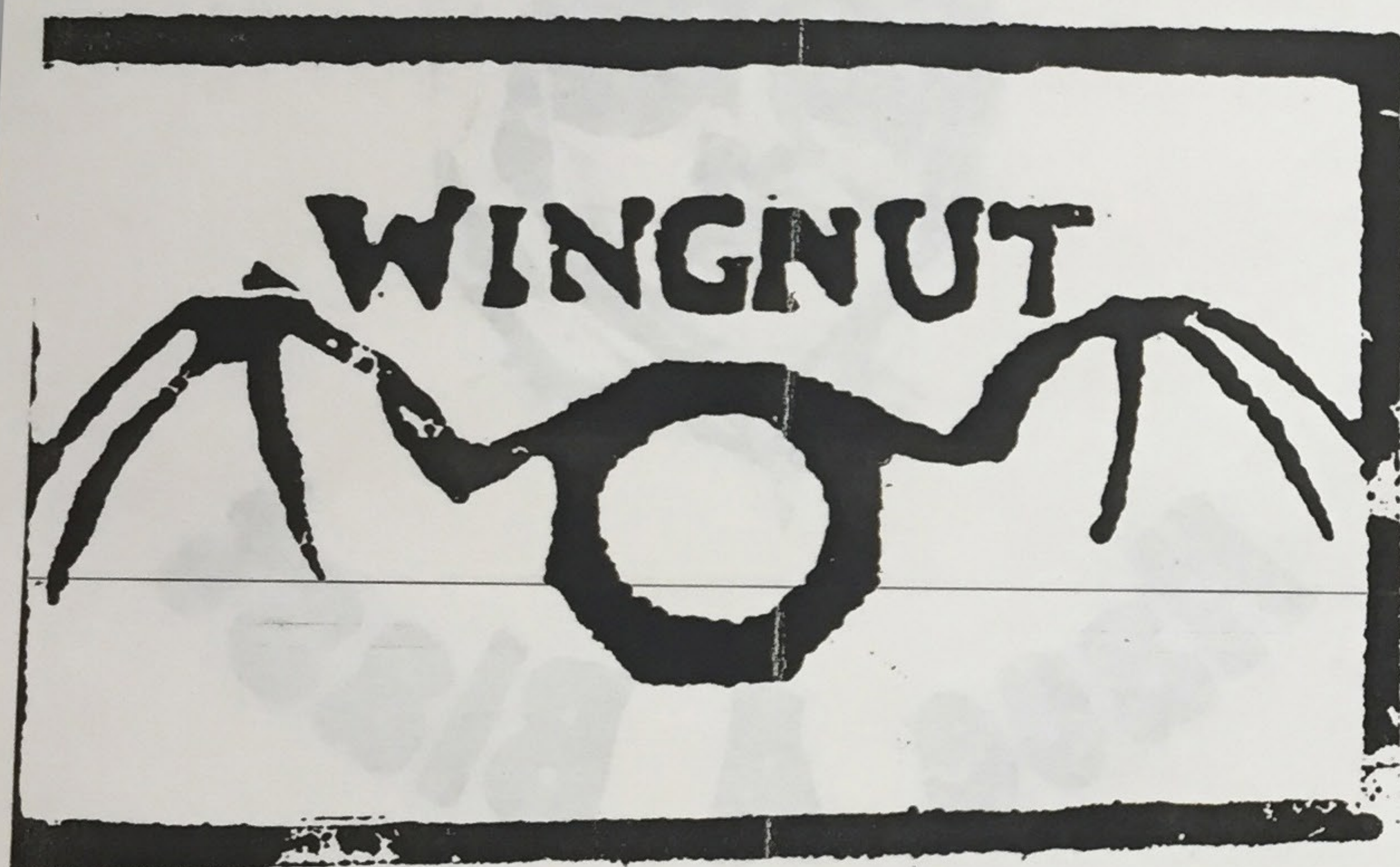
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General and Solicitor General both say they think the government should be able to hold alleged terrorists indefinitely without trial. Of course, the government can claim that anyone is a terrorist, and if there is no trial that claim is never tested. So in effect the government would be able to lock up anyone indefinitely.

Thus, on the basis of Obama's choices for Attorney General and Solicitor General, I don't think there is any reason to hope that he will appoint good judges.

About my composition -- yes you're right,



www.wingnutrva.org



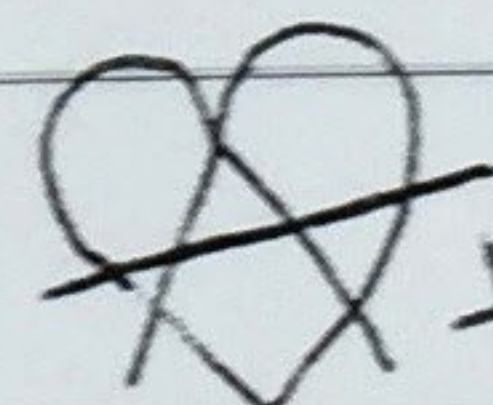
From J.
with letter dated
11/2/11

Grossly unfair to Obama!
- TJK

Hope You



Have A Blast

 the
Wingnuts